

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-10
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 16843

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARN, UNGA
SUBJECT: UNSSOD: IRAQI DRAFT RESOLUTION ON MILITARY AND NUCLEAR
ASSISTANCE

REF: STATE 144994

1. SUMMARY: U.S. POSITION IN IRAQI DRAFT RESOLUTION WAS PRESENTED IN A MEETING JUNE 9, 1978 BETWEEN EMBOFFS AND THE CHIEF OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE DIVISION, MFA. MFA OFFICIAL APPEARED RECEPTIVE TO U.S. POSITION BUT SAID THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO EXAMINE THE TEXT OF THE IRAQI PROPOSAL BEFORE MAKING ANY DECISION ON VOTING. HE ALSO DISCUSSED GENERAL ISSUES OF DISARMAMENT, SOVIET MILITARY EXERCISES ON ETOROFU, THE VIETNAMESE PROPOSAL FOR A ZONE OF PEACE IN SE ASIA, AND THE NON-ALIGNED NATIONS' PROPOSAL FOR THE ABOLITION OF NUCLEAR AND OTHER WEAPONS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN A MEETING WITH THE CHIEF OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE DIVISION, MFA JUNE 9, 1978, EMBOFFS PRESENTED THE USG POSITION ON THE IRAQI DRAFT RESOLUTION ON MILITARY AND NUCLEAR ASSISTANCE (REFTEL). MFA OFFICIAL APPEARED RECEPTIVE TO THE USG POSITION BUT STRESSED THAT HE HAD NOT YET SEEN THE TEXT OF THE IRAQI DRAFT RESOLUTION
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AND THAT ANY DECISION ON VOTING WOULD HAVE TO WAIT UPON MFA'S EXAMINATION OF THE TEXT.

3. IN GENERAL DISCUSSION OF DISARMAMENT ISSUES, MFA OFFICIAL VOICED SUPPORT FOR THE NON-ALIGNED NATIONS' PROPOSAL FOR THE SONSECUTIVE ABOLITION OF: 1) NUCLEAR WEAPONS, 2) CHEMICAL WEAPONS AND OTHER WEAPONS OF

MASS DESTRUCTION, AND 3) CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS, AND FOR THE REDUCTION OF MILITARY BUDGETS. HE ASKED FOR THE USG POSITION ON TOTAL ABOLITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. EMBOFFS STRESSED THAT THE USG IS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO AND WORKING FOR REDUCTION OF ARMAMENTS, NUCLEAR AND OTHERWISE, THROUGH SALT TALKS, MBFR NEGOTIATIONS, AND IN OTHER FORA. WE EMPHASIZED THAT WE MUST WORK TO REDUCE NUCLEAR WEAPONRY IN THE CONTEXT OF OVERALL WEAPONRY STRENGTH.

4. MFA OFFICIAL ALSO SAID THAT RTG SUPPORTS THE MALAYSIAN AMENDMENT TO THE MEDITERRANEAN DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR A ZONE OF PEACE WHICH WOULD ADD THE "FAR EAST" TO THE AREA PRESENTLY COVERED BY THE PROPOSAL. EMBOFFS HAVE SEEN NEITHER THIS NOR THE NON-ALIGNED PROPOSAL AND INDICATED TO MFA OFFICIAL THAT ANY COMMENTS WE MIGHT MAKE WOULD AWAIT EMBASSY REVIEW OF THE TEXTS.

5. MFA OFFICIALS ALSO BROUGHT UP THE ON-GOING MILITARY EXERCISES BEING HELD BY THE SOVIET UNION IN THE "NORTHERN TERRITORIES" AND SURROUNDING WATERS TO THE NORTH OF JAPAN. MFA OFFICIAL SEES A VERY DIRECT CONNECTION BETWEEN SOVIET ACTIVITIES ON ETOROFU AND RECENT EVENTS IN SE ASIA, PARTICULARLY THE CURRENT TENSION BETWEEN CHINA AND VIETNAM, RELATED TO CHINESE CONFIDENTIAL

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SUPPORT FOR CAMBODIA AND THE PLIGHT OF ETHNIC CHINESE IN VIETNAM. MFA OFFICIAL BELIEVES THAT SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORIES ARE MORE DIRECTLY RELATED TO SE ASIAN DEVELOPMENTS THAN TO INDICATIONS THAT JAPAN MAY SIGN THE LONG-POSTPONED PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY WITH THE PRC.

6. EMBOFFS BROACHED SUBJECT OF VIETNAMESE PROPOSAL ON A ZONE OF PEACE IN SE ASIA, WHICH THE VIETNAMESE DELEGATION RECENTLY SUBMITTED TO SSOD. MFA OFFICIAL WAS UNAWARE OF THE VIETNAMESE PROPOSAL, BUT WHEN EMBOFFS TOLD HIM OF ITS SALIENT POINTS, HE CALLED THE PROPOSAL A "BASIS FOR CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSION." MFA OFFICIAL OBSERVED THE VIETNAMESE USE OF THE TERM "GENUINE INDEPENDENCE" AND EXPRESSED DOUBT ABOUT IMPLICATION OF THE VIETNAMESE DEFINITION OF "GENUINE INDEPENDENCE." MFA OFFICIAL ALSO NOTED VIETNAMESE OMISSION OF THE TERM "FREEDOM" IN THE PROPOSAL, AS CALLED FOR IN THE ASEAN ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM NEUTRALITY. HE SAID THAT MFA WOULD EXAMINE CLOSELY THE FULL TEXT OF THE VIETNAMESE DRAFT PROPOSAL.

7. IN WHAT TURNED OUT TO BE A FAR-RANGING CONVERSATION, MFA OFFICIAL ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN ZAIRE. HE ASKED WHAT THE U.S. POSITION WAS ON THE CURRENT CONFLICT IN ZAIRE AND WHAT AID THE U.S. WAS GIVING. IN ADDITION, HE SHOWED A KEEN INTEREST IN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE LOGISTICAL SUPPORT THE U.S. IS PRESENTLY PROVIDING (I.E. THE AIR LIFT OF NON-MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND OF MOROCCAN AND OTHER AFRICAN TROOPS FOR THE PAN-AFRICAN PEACE KEEPING FORCE) AND A MORE DIRECT ROLE BY U.S. MILITARY.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPT. PROVIDE EMBASSY WITH THE TEXTS OF THE NON-ALIGNED NATIONS' PROPOSAL FOR DISARMAMENT AND OF THE MEDITERRANEAN DRAFT PROPOSAL
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FOR A ZONE OF PEACE AND THE PROPOSED MALAYSIAN AMENDMENT.
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Message Attributes

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